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May 29, 1999

Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney,

It has been well documented that many bacteria which are harmful to humans are becoming increasingly resistant to commonly used antibiotics. It is also clear that, in large part, this resistance is due to the widespread use of antibiotics to promote weight gain and to prevent disease in animals. As a result, the effectiveness of medicines we depend on to protect us against disease is being sacrificed to maintain the profits of the poultry and livestock industries. The short run interests of these industries should not be allowed to cause long term risks to human health. The poultry and livestock industries can survive without antibiotics, but humans, when infected by seriously resistant bacteria, may not. Therefore, I urge that the Food and Drug Administration ban the use of human antibiotics in animal feeds and thereby assure that the medicines we have come to depend on to protect us from disease will continue to be effective in the future.

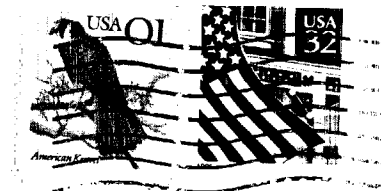
Yours truly,

Joseph Kotzin
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